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OF THE

MINING JOURNAL.

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FOREIGN MINES.

ST. JOHN DEL REY MINING COMPANY (Limited).—Advices received Jan. 1, 1877, ex Mondego (s.), dated Morro Velho, Dec. 2:—

GOLD EXTRACTED TO DATE.—The produce extracted during the second division of November, being a period of 12 days, amounts to 14,364·3 oits. It has been derived as follows:—

	Oits.	Tons.	Oits. per ton.
From general mineral	6,021·3 from	1325 =	4·544
Mineral freed from killas	7,339·0 ,,	751 =	9·771
	13,360·3 ,,	2076 =	6·436
Re-treatment	1,004·0 ,,	— =	·483
Total	14,364·3 ,,	2076 =	6·919

Equal to .....1655·9699 ozs.=·7976 oz. per ton.

The above is a much lower produce than was extracted in the second division of October, being about 1000 oits. less for the 12 days, and having a standard yield of nearly an oitava per ton lower.

The first division of the month gave about the same daily rate of gold return, though the yield per ton from the mineral treated only gave 6·234 oits.

At present we have a full supply of mineral of average quality, and, therefore, our gold return should improve a little.

Advices received Jan. 15, 1877, ex Elbe (s), dated Morro Velho, Dec. 19, 1876:—

GENERAL OPERATIONS.—The rainfall recorded for the last fortnight of November has continued at fully the same rate during the first 16 days of December, giving a fall of 8·76 in. for that period.

There has been a little accession to the number of natives in the mine department, though the daily average attendance has not increased, probably owing to two holidays occurring in this period of the month. The supply of water coming on to the establishment at this time is large on the whole, though it fluctuates in proportion to the frequency and extent of the showers falling on the mountains north and west of Morro Velho. The weather has been unfavourable for out door work generally, and the earth roads especially in the lower parts of the province have become almost impassable.

PRODUCE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.—The gold extracted during the month of November amounts to 38,414·4 oits.=4428·555 ozs. troy. It has been derived as follows:—

	Oits.	Tons.	Oits. per ton.
From general mineral	16,985·3 from	3455 =	4·913
Mineral roughly freed from killas	18,868 2 ,,	1943 =	9·710
	35,853·5 ,,	5398 =	6·642
Re-treatment	2,560·9 ,,	— =	·473
Total	38,414·4 ,,	5398 =	7·115

= 4·28·555 ozs. troy = ·8204 oz. per ton.

The above produce is a little less—1490 oits.—than was extracted in the month of October, which, however, had 31 days. The standard yield from the mineral per ton is also somewhat lower, being 7·115 oits., as compared with 7·299 oits. obtained in October. But the daily return from the stamps in November is within 7 oits. of that extracted in October.

COST AND PROFIT.

The produce for November being 38,414·4 oits.			
Deduct loss melting into bars	181·1 ,,		
	38,233·3, at 7s. 9d. per oit. =	£14,815	8 0½
Cost		6,593	9 5½
Profit for the month of November		£ 8,221	18 7

The cost is below the average. Excepting the month of September it is the smallest cost incurred in any one month during the year. The profit under the circumstances is as much as could be expected. We have now a fuller supply of both mineral and water, and, therefore, we should be able to extract more produce, and in proportion as this is done augment the amount of profit.

MINE AND MINING WORKS—WESTERN LEVEL.—It may have been observed that we have not been able to keep a force steadily engaged in the western level. At present, and for some weeks past, there have been a certain number of borers employed in this section, as has been shown in the returns.

The stoping sketch sent forward by last mail would show pretty clearly where the stoping had been effected during the month of November.

A tracing has been prepared by Mr. Dale, and goes forward by this mail, showing the proportion of the lode in the face of the stopes along the bottom of the excavation. Mr. Dale in his report for November refers to the lode generally, and its proportions between killas and gold bearing pyrites. It has been proposed to drive a level eastward, a little lower down than No. 1 stull, but there can be no objection to driving one at that horizon also if deemed desirable.

The further down the proposed level is driven the more valuable will be the information obtained as to the size and quality of the lode in depth eastward. As the stoping is carried down in the east part of section No. 2·6 the desired information will be obtained in reference to the mineral lode eastward below that section.

The attendance of natives, though considerable, has not given as high a daily average as the last two weeks of November. The quarrying and stoping of mineral have been carried on very steadily, the output for the fortnight amounting to 3465 mine wagons. The average number of borers daily being 92·48, gives a duty per month of 37·48 mine wagons, or a daily duty of 2·88 mine wagons, which may be considered very good and large duty.

The sinking, driving, and stoping in the sump are going on regularly, the pumps working easily and well, and the hauling being conducted without any interruption or breakages of any kind.

The general timber-work is being kept well forward, and a new stull, No. 4, has been commenced in the eastern and deep part of the excavation.

From the quantity of mineral raised and delivered by the mine, being greater than the stamping mills can reduce, the stock on the floors in increasing inconveniently.

WATER COURSES AND TUNNELS.—These have so far stood well the greatly increased flow of water they have been subject to, and have conveyed the required supply safely on to the wheels and machinery of the establishment. Nor have we had any accident to the large and numerous series of launders carrying the water to the various works.

BANANAL RESERVOIR.—The weather has been unfavourable for the carrying on the work at this locality, and not much progress can be made in the earthwork. The quarrying of stone is going on effectively.

REDUCTION DEPARTMENT.—The spalling floors continue to be rather inconveniently filled with a considerably increasing stock of mineral, though the stamping mills are now being driven at what might be regarded as high rates of speed. The stamps are kept well supplied with mineral.

A large body of auriferous sand is caught in the strakes, and subjected to the amalgamation process—which is working pretty well—though the loss of quicksilver is larger than could be wished. All the arrastras employed in the re treatment of the tailings are kept fully and constantly at work, but they are unable to re-grind more than the fourth of this tailing sand, as received at the Praia works. The other three-fourth of the body caught is deposited close to those works for future treatment, as circumstances may render such convenient and desirable.

GOLD EXTRACTED TO DATE.—The produce of gold extracted from the mineral treated during the first division of December, being a period of eight days, amounts to 11,776·4 oits., being equal to 1357·6271 ozs. It has been derived as follows:—

	Oits.	Tons.	Oits. per ton.
From general mineral	6231·3 from	876 =	7·113
Mineral roughly freed from killas	4767·1 ,,	591 =	8·066
	10,998·9 ,,	1467 =	7·451
Re-treatment	777·5 ,,	— =	·529
Total	11,776·4 ,,	1467 =	7·980

Equal to ... 1357·6271 ozs. troy = ·9254 oz. troy per ton.

The foregoing is a better return of gold than we have had for some time, being at the rate of 1472 oits. per diem, and very nearly at the general standard yield of an ounce of gold to the ton of mineral treated.

The improvement has taken place in the general mineral, as may be seen in comparing the returns for a few months past.

The work is going on regularly at date, and fair duty is being done both in the mine and at the surface works.

The gold troop was dispatched from Morro Velho on Dec. 14, taking nine boxes, containing 26 bars gold, weighing in all 40,269·7 oits. or 4635·5221 ozs. troy, for shipment per Elbe (s.) for England.—N.B.: The gold has duly arrived.

The following telegrams have been received:—

On Dec. 24, "Produce eight days (first division of December) 11,750 oits. Yield, 7·9 oits. per ton. Profit for the month (November) 820*l.*"

On Jan. 8, "Produce 11 days (second divison of December), 14,750 oits. Yield, 7·3 oits. per ton.

— Telegram from Morro Velho, dated Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 12: Produce for the month of December, 41,500 oits.=16,081*l.*; yield, 7·3 oits. per ton.

DON PEDRO NORTH DEL REY.—Report for November: Produce from 1454·90 tons, dry weight, 2552*l.* 19s. 6d.; cost (ordinary), including all general expenses, 1899*l.* 14s. 11d. Capt. Vivian reports under date Dec. 17: Produce weighed to date, 1809 oits. The usual telegram (which would advise the produce for December), has not yet come to hand, owing, no doubt, to a breakage reported in the cable between Rio and Bahia.

— Telegram from Rio, dated Jan. 12: Produce for December, 5500 oits.

SANTA BARBARA.—Mr. Hilcke, Pari, Dec. 12: During November 1021 tons of mineral were stamped, yielding 3·806 oits. per ton, or a total of 3886 oits. of gold, which, valued at 8s. 6d. per oit., amounts to 1651*l.* 11s. as the estimated value of the produce for the month. The mine working cost for the same period, calculated by the manager at the exchange of 24d., amounted to 912*l.* 6s., thus showing an estimated profit of 738*l.* 5s. for November. From this profit, however, a deduction of about 30*l.* should be made, owing to the exchange having been calculated at the mine at a considerably lower rate than was ruling at Rio de Janeiro. The capital expenditure during the month, on the No. 5 stamps and new Senzala, amounted to 96*l.* 8s. 6d. The quantity of ore raised during the month amounted to 1342 tons, of which 321 tons were rejected as refuse stone, and 1021 tons treated at the stamps. Average quantity of ore raised per borer, for the month, 26·2 tons. At surface fair progress had been made with No. 5 stamps, and if the carpenters continued to do good duty this mill would be completed in January. The Senzala was finished, with the exception of a small amount of inside work, and during December all the blacks would be removed there.

LONDON AND CALIFORNIAN.—The clean-up for the month of December at the Original Amador Mine is estimated at $9000.

CHICAGO (Silver).—W. S. Godbe: Net profit for last month $7000. We have run two furnaces 25 days.

ALMADA AND TIRITO.—Telegram from Mr. Breach: Patagonia sailed on Dec. 13, with 359 tons, worth $18,800 net; 32 winze improving at 40 fms. below tunnel.

PITANGUI.—Mr. Hilcke (Pari, Dec. 12) reports that the adit was extended 5 fms. during November, and that the end being in more favourable ground for driving, it was hoped that 6 fms. would be accomplished in December.

TOLIMA.—By the mail of Jan. 13 we learn that notwithstanding the interference which the manager has experienced in the prosecution of their works from the disturbed state of the country, induced by the revolutionary movement, which had not been suppressed at the date of his advice (Nov. 10), he had succeeded in invoicing 5½ tons of ore, representing an assay value of $2915 (486*l.*), whilst his total expenditure at the mine, including the payment of the permanent European staff, which could not be reduced, amounted to $3177 (529*l.*), thus only showing a loss of 32*l.* for that month, a much more satisfactory result than the directors had felt warranted in anticipating, pending the continuance of the disorganisation which the civil war had reduced the Republic. With regard to the progress of the Alto ditch works the manager reports that they had sustained serious injury from the tempestuous weather which had prevailed there as well as elsewhere during the recent autumn, and he mentions the occurrence of no less than 37 landslips, besides the damage to the launders from large trees falling over them at several points. He, however, reports that the work of clearing these away and repairing the ditch was progressing actively. On these repairs being completed the hydrant would be got to work.

CONDES OF CHILI.—J. Beccombe, Dec. 1: Since my last the weather has been favourable, resulting in a daily increasing number of men, and work progressing satisfactorily. The carriage is also going on well. I have now more than 500 mules on the road. During November I have had taken from the mines to the smelting works at Corral Quemado, and here *en route* to Valparaiso for shipment, 450 tons of ores, which, considering the unusual roughness of the season, will compare favourably with anything hitherto done in this district.—Smelting Works: The No. 2 furnace is completed, and fire lit in it on Wednesday last; by Monday it will be ready for the first charge. If all goes well I hope to ship pig-lead by next steamer. For the blast-furnace I am waiting for ironwork from the foundry.

EXCHEQUER (Gold and Silver).—Lewis Chalmers, Dec. 24: The 40 is in 57 ft. from cross-cut, in fine ore. All the stopes are doing well; 55 car loads of ore were sent up last week. The ore dump is housed in, and the tramway all but the shingles. The new hotsting machinery will be completed, all but the new gallows frame, this week. The battery would have been further advanced but for the Christmas holidays.

I.X.L. (Gold and Silver).—Lewis Chalmers, Dec. 24: The north drift is in 370 ft. from the 200. No change; 12½ ft. driven. The Drain tunnel sent up 25 car loads of good ore—driven 10 ft. The rise for ventilation under the O. K. was sent up 12 ft. Some good ore coming in on the back. We shall commence sinking when we get the additional machinery.

JAVALI.—Under date Dec. 5 the manager reports that owing to scarcity of water succeeding the hurricane in October the mill, which had been worked by steam power during only 19 days in November, crushed 1250 tons of quartz, yielding 397 ozs. of gold. The expenditure was 879*l.*, which included 130*l.* on capital account. The remittance is valued by the directors at 970*l.* The dry weather still continued at the date of Capt. John's dispatch.

SIERRA BUTTES.—Result of the working at the Sierra Buttes and Plumas Eureka Mines for December:—Sierra Buttes Mine: Receipts, $34,645; total California expenses, including cost of mining and milling, $20,184.—Plumas Eureka Mine: Receipts (including sulphurets), $45,214; total California expenses, including costs of mining and milling, $18,254; tons of sulphurets saved, 42; tons of sulphurets amalgamated, 46; Yield of sulphurets per ton, 886.

CHONTALES.—J. C. B. Danby, Dec. 5: During the past month we have crushed 540 tons of ore, which produced 115 ozs. of gold, or an average of 4 dwts. per ton. Our cost for the month has been 465*l.* We value the gold obtained at 320*l.*, showing a loss of 145*l.* The above cost includes the sum of 64*l.* expended in bringing up the new machinery. We have added about 270 tons to our stock of quartz, and have also saved about 80 tons of partially concentrated tailings, the profit on which, when treated, ought to be 40*l.* I am pleased to inform you that I have succeeded in getting up the new wheel and a large portion of the new pans. The wheel is now fixed, and has been running to day. I hope, if the water allows, to run 30 stamps during the greater portion of this month. As regards the pans, I am waiting some minor pieces, which I hope will arrive in a day or two. One pan I will endeavour to have running before the next mail. I do not anticipate any difficulty in fully supplying the pans with sand when they are all erected. It will take, however, some time to have the whole properly constructed, for if care is not taken in the fitting they would not last more than three or four years; but, if erected carefully and properly, they ought to to last ten years at least. I will at the first moment comply with the request of the directors as to the proving of the Pavon property. My means have, however, been so limited, owing to the bad state of the St. Domingo mill, that I have not felt justified in incurring any great expense at this point.—Mines: East San Benito: Stoping has been continued in the old workings of this mine, and a fair amount of quartz of good average value has been extracted. The new cross-cut intersecting the western portion of this mine has reached the lode. The vein at this point is some 10 ft. wide, but at present is poor. I hope and expect by driving a short distance east that it will greatly improve in value.—San Sebastian Mine: We have made good headway in the new ventilation rise, although the difficulties have been somewhat great, having come suddenly into some old workings not marked in any of the sections. Stoping has been continued during the month, also driving the Nos. 2 and 3 ends. The quartz produced from this mine was rather lower than the usual average.—Estrella Mine: The work at this mine during the last month has been solely exploratory, and we are now in a position to put out a large amount of quartz from this point. No. 1 end west has opened out well; the value of the quartz here has been generally poor during the month. The new rise I hope will be through the surface in a week or two. The quartz from this rise has been of no value during the last month. The No. 2 end east has been driven very speedily, and, as expected, the lode has been cut out by another fault or slide: our development at this point will be, consequently, delayed for a short time. When the vein was lost, 18 months ago, a good deal of money was spent in recovering it again. From the result of a careful survey I think we shall find it this time in a few days, and expect when we get away from the influence of the dislocation the lode will greatly improve in value. The quartz from this end has been of fair average.

CAPE COPPER.—Capt. Tonkin, Nov. 30: Ookiep: The shaft below the 80 is letting out water freely, and the value of the ground is somewhat kindly, but it does not produce any copper ore. The 80 east fell off very much in value at one time during the month, but it has again improved, and the present end is looking well—worth fully 8 tons of copper ore per fathom.—[Capt. Tonkin writes in a later letter, Dec. 8:—"The 80 east has improved, now worth 10 tons of rich copper ore per fathom, and the stope in the immediate vicinity of the driving is yielding 11 tons of like quality ore per fm."] The stopes in the bottom level have yielded a splendid heap of rich copper ore in the past month, and they continue to look well. The 80 north east of shaft still produces small quantities of copper ore, and we hope to open out some moderately productive ground in this neighbourhood. The 68, east from No. 13 winze, has improved of late, the present forebreast of the driving being worth 1½ ton per fathom. No. 21 winze below the 68 has not changed since last report. The sinking is going down in moderately productive ground, worth 4 tons of copper ore per fathom. The 68, south-east from No. 15 winze, improved during the month, and the present end of the driving is looking very well indeed. The driving and stoping in the 68 north-east from No. 15 winze continues to look moderately well, and as we have now reached a considerable distance from the main level, I consider this an important point. The other stopes throughout the mine have not undergone any changes calling for particular remarks. In the ore dressing department we have got on remarkably well for some time past.

Spectakel.—Capt. Tonkin, Capt. Ninnis, Nov. 25: The trial levels show a little copper ore, but not enough to value. In looking at the nature of the ground we are driving through, we are convinced that the explorations referred to should be fully carried out.

Trial Mines.—Capt. Tonkin, Capt. Lanksbury, Nov. 15: The levels at Karolusberg are producing small quantities of copper ore, but not enough to value. At Nababeep the men are busily engaged in timbering shaft and fixing pumping work, while the artizans are employed in erecting whim [shaft, tackle, &c.—We hope shortly to be in a position to give this mine a good trial. The 20 fm. level at Narrap is being driven through ground that yields a fair quantity of copper ore, but the quality is rather low, about 16 per cent.

Returns for November: Yield from Ookiep, 1000 tons of 20 per cent.: from Spectakel, 33 tons of 25 per cent.—Arrival at Port Nolloth: The Hondeklip, to load about 400 tons.—Arrivals at Swansea: The Diadem and Mabel.—Sales by Public Ticketing: 755 tons of ore on 2nd inst., at an average of 14s. 11d. per unit, realising approximately 15,300*l.*; and 455 tons on 16th inst., at an average of 14s. 11¼d. per unit, realising approximately 8900*l.*

[For remainder of Foreign Mines see to-day's Journal.]

MINING IN AUSTRALASIA—MONTHLY SUMMARY.

SHIPMENTS OF ORE.—The Invercauld from Adelaide, bringing 221 tons of copper ore from the Kurilla Mine, arrived on the 13th inst.; other vessels are on the way with 283 tons more.

The Kurilla Mine, Yorke's Peninsula, is turning out well.

The advisableness of opening up a trade with Canada has been advocated, and there seems every probability that such a trade would be advantageous to both provinces. An experimental cargo is to be shipped from Canada to this colony.

The question of the federation of the colonies has been urged by the Governors of South Australia and New South Wales. At a banquet at Albury Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of New South Wales, delivered a very able speech on this subject.—*South Australian Advertiser*, Dec. 2.

The South Australian Salt Refining Company commenced operations at a salt lagoon called Gypsum Lake, on southern Yorke's Peninsula, about six weeks ago, under the management of Mons. A. Tocchi, with satisfactory results.

Parties at the alluvial diggings in the Northern Territory are reported as doing well, one man having obtained 286 ozs. of gold since last Christmas, after paying all expenses.

There have, from time to time, been rumours of discoveries of coal in South Australia, most of which have turned out to have little foundation. Within the last day or two, however, a report of a discovery in the Port Lincoln district has some appearance of being genuine, backed up as it is by the nature of the specimens brought from the *locus in quo*. Claims have been secured in the neighbourhood of Coffin's Bay, where a seam of lignite 4 ft. in thickness was cut 14 ft. from surface. Slate rock was then sunk through, had a bed of shale 14 ft. thick was cut. Other rock was found below, and at a depth of 84 ft. a seam of coal was struck. Our informant is an experienced coal miner, who has no interest in the discovery, and he says he has hitherto seen nothing in South Australia so likely to prove a genuine and valuable discovery of black diamond. The coal is said to be of excellent quality. We hope this may prove a genuine and an extensive find, as its value to the colony at the present time could hardly be overrated.

NEW ZEALAND.—The various constitutional changes consequent upon the abolition of the provinces are being effected quietly and satisfactorily.

A Gazette notice contains an order in Council dividing the whole colony into counties and ridings, quite irrespective of the old provincial boundaries.—*South Australian Register*, Dec. 2.

AUSTRALIAN MINES.

PORT PHILLIP AND COLONIAL.—Nov. 27: Quantity of quartz crushed for the four weeks ending Nov. 8, 2455 tons; pyrites treated, 21 tons. Total gold obtained, 751 ounces 7 dwts., or an average per ton of 6 dwts. 3 grains. Receipts, 3727*l.* 14s. 6d. Payments, 2402*l.* 3s. 6d. Profit, 1325*l.* 10s. 11d., which, added to last month's balance of 1707*l.* 11s. 7d., made an available balance of 3033*l.* 2s. 6d. The amount divided between the two companies was 1200*l.*, the Port Phillip Company's proportion of which is 780*l.* The balance of 1833*l.* 2s. 6d. was carried forward to next month's account. Remittance, 800*l.*

— Jan. 10: Telegram: Month ending Jan. 3—Yield per ton, 7 dwts. 4 grains. Western reef, No. 10 level, 4 dwts. 18 grs. per ton. Profit, 1400*l.* Remittance, 800*l.*

BURRA BURRA.—Capt. Sanders, Nov. 27: During the past four weeks we have finished fixing the new pitwork at Morphett's, and put the old work in thorough repair, cut plat at the 85, and started a cross-cut east, from which there has been broken stone containing malleable and black oxide of copper. Although not sufficient to set a value on, it is encouraging as showing an improvement in depth. The 70 north has been driven 3 fms. This has been hard and poor, but being the required distance to cross-cut east to Waterhouse's shaft we have started to do so, and I am glad to say just after starting there has been broken stone containing rich grey ore, thus showing the necessity of short cross-cuts when driving on large lodes. I hope to be able to give you more information on this point in a few days. The winze sinking from the 60 to the 70 for convenience and ventilation is down about 6 fms., but, owing to the hardness of the ground, and the water being quick, the progress is slow, but we start this week to bore a hole through to the level below, so that the water will run down to the 70. The cross-cut driving at the 60 towards Peacock's air-shaft is within 8 or 9 ft. of the shaft, and has just reached a part of the lode with spots of green ore. Peacock's air-shaft is down about 6 fathoms below the 50 fathom level. A part of the shaft is in the lode, from which we are breaking rich purple and grey ore, saving the whole of the stuff for treatment by stamps. These two points will be pushed on as fast as possible so as to effect a communication, and then drive on course of the lode. I consider this a very important point in the mine. Four men have been stoping Grave's cross-cut to bring the water to the pitwork to be fixed in that shaft. Tribute pitches are about as usual—some better and some worse. Surface and open work are being pushed on as fast as possible, and looking satisfactory. We have proved the value of our steam-hammer, particularly the last few weeks, in making iron rods instead of the unnecessarily cumbersome wood-rods for the new 20-in. pitwork. Our casting foundry is working well. We are now in a position to make castings from 15 cwts. to 16 cwts. each. Our machinery is in good order and working satisfactorily.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN (Gold)—Capt. Raisbeck, Nov. 27: We have extended the south drive on the eastern lode 40 ft.; distance from cross-cut to present end, 50 ft. At the 48 ft. lode we intersected the cross-lode mentioned in last month's report. The cross-lode has cut off the eastern lode, or rather displaced it. According to the bearings or angles at the juncture the cross-lode will heave the eastern lode to the east, but to what distance I cannot say. We are now driving on the cross lode at about an angle of 36° south of east, and will continue so until we meet with the eastern lode going off in its regular course. The ground up to date has been very hard and strong. I expect to make better progress when we get the lode in its regular course. On the 23rd ult. I set on tribute a block of ground north of No. 1 cutting to four men, the company to receive 50 per cent. on all gold raised by them, the tributers to land the quarts to surface. They will have to drive 25 ft. to strike the quartz. The Ferrore's Company continue driving north towards our boundary. They have a large body of stone, and it improves in quality as they go north and in depth. Our shaft is not deep enough for their bottom workings.

YORKE PENINSULA.—Capt. Anthony reports: Kurilla Lode: At the 45, east of Hall's shaft, the lode is 3 ft. wide, composed for the most part of quartz, but the greater part of it is saving stuff for crushing and jigging; I may say that there is a general improvement in both the lode and the strata here. I have not resumed the driving of the 35 east, but have kept the men breaking ore on the north side bunch, which still holds good going down, the whole area (this area in a previous report was stated to be 50 ft.) at 1 fm. deep, is worth 18 tons of 20 per cent. ore, per fathom throughout. There are 12 men working on tribute at an average of 9s. 1d. in 1*l.*—Morphett's Lode: The engine-shaft is 20 fms. deep, and the lode is worth 3 tons of nearly 20 per cent. ore per fathom. I have added three other men, making a full pare of nine, so as to hasten on this important work. The 20 will be driven east and west from the present attained depth; but I cannot begin to drive until it is at least 10 ft. deeper, so as to make room for the lift to pump below the 20. The water is not materially increasing, and I shall delay the working of the engine as long as the shaft can be kept dry by the horse whim, as the engine will involve an expenditure of at least 50*l.* per month. There are 12 men working on tribute at an average of 8s. 8d. in 1*l.*—Anthony's Lode: In continuing the 25 cross-cut south I have come upon a slide, running counter to the proper direction of the lode, and dipping north-west; this slide appears to have displaced the lode, and I am now driving north-east on it in the hope of finding the eastern part of the lode. I have gone on at this place beyond the limit contemplated, but I should be sorry to give it up for a little while longer, as there must be ore about the spot where those splendid stones came from that I sent you a month ago.—Ore Returns: Since my last monthly report I have despatched 186 tons of ore, averaging nearly 18¼ per cent., worth (say) 1900*l.* There are on the mine, dressed and undressed, 110 tons of 18 per cent., worth (say) 1000*l.*; dredge ore of 5 per cent. (say) 230 tons, or (say) 400*l.* The committee report that the Government had agreed to purchase about five acres of the Bon Accord property, at 100*l.* per acre, for the extension of the railways northwards from the township of Aberdeen, in which allotments are being gradually purchased for building purposes.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN.—The directors have received advices from Sydney, dated Nov. 27, with reports from the Lambton Colliery to the 22nd. The sales of coal for the month of October amounted to 12,667 tons. The sales for November are not yet reported, the month not having elapsed when the mail left. Trade was stated to be slack.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRAL (Gold).—Capt. Anguin, Fryerstown, Nov. 27: The air drive and main drive upper level from No. 3 "jump up" were knocked through to the top cross-cut at the latter end of last week, and that good ventilation is secured, and the men can now be put on profitable work, as both drives have been carried principally through reef, some of which has been hard rocks; progress has been slow, the Chinese not being accustomed to rock driving, but in all other respects they understand, and do their work quite as well as most of the Europeans. If the present arrangements with the Chinese had been carried out from the first the company would have made a heavy gain by the transaction. There are now 35 Chinese employed on surface and underground, with a European miner as overlooker to each shift, and with the 12 additional men expected this week I can have five or six faces on wash-dirt, which ought to pay well, judging from trials already made. The present gritter appears to be heading north-west, and I would recommend the bottom level to be carried on at once to prevent any stoppage of the works, in future that level should always be ahead of the workings. There is a large piece of blank ground in the gutter between the old top cross-cut and the new one, caused by the point of a reef coming in and cutting out the waste about 100 ft. in length on the course of the gutter; there is a fine stope of wash-dirt about 70 or 80 ft. in width in the face of the top cross cut, and it is on this face of dirt that operations will be commenced. The ground is gradually dipping ahead. The mine and machinery are in good working order, and, barring any accident, the mine should commence paying good profits, which will increase with the increased number of men employed in breaking wash-dirt.

Registration of New Companies.

The following joint-stock companies have been duly registered:—

RUABON FIRE-CLAY COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 25,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. To acquire coal mines, slate quarries, &c., and to work the same. It may be presumed that the scene of this company's operations is to be Ruabon or the immediate neighbourhood, bnt no mention of locality is made. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—Thomas Halliday, 56, Gilbert street, Liverpool, merchant; George Johnson, Tranmere, book-keeper; John Anderson, 52, Castle-street, Liverpool, accountant: G. W. Rutter, 10, St. George's-crescent, Liverpool, slate and tile merchant; J. Henstock, 42, Lord-street, Liverpool, stationer; Geo. Turner, 44, Church-street, Liverpool: William Thame, Gloucester-place, Liverpool, engineer. The directors are not yet appointed, but the qualification is fixed at 20 shares.

FENNS BANK BRICK AND TILE COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 100*l.* shares. To acquire the goodwill and business and the right and interest of the Brick, Tile, and Peat Works at Fenns Bank, Flint, held and worked by James Halliday, trustee in liquidation, and the lease thereof under Lord Hanmer. The subscribers are—W. A. Peppercorn, Whitchurch, esquire, 5; J. Dorsett Owen, Oswestry, brewer, 5; Alexander Walker, Oswestry, esquire, 5; John Morris, Oswestry, esquire, 5; W. Williams, Oswestry, estate agent, 5; T. Pryce Parry, Oswestry, esquire, 10; T. L. Brown Owen, Oswestry, brewer, 5. The directors are—Messrs. John Morris, John Dorsett Owen, T. Brown Owen, Thomas Pryce Parry, W. A. Peppercorn, and W. Williams, the qualification being the holding of five shares.

ROCK POWDER PUDROLITHE COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. To acquire certain letters patent for making and vending a new chemical compound for blasting purposes, together with the business and assets of the Patent Safety Blasting Powder Company (Limited), now in course of voluntary winding up. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—J. T. Raynes, 17, Rock Park, near Birkenhead, quarryowner; H. A. Hubberstv, Burbage, near Buxton, quarryowner; E. Curbing French, 28, Rock Park, near Birkenhead, shipowner; J. W. Raynes, 17, Rock Park, quarryowner; G. T. Raynes, 17, Rock Park; W. P. Colebarn, 2, Tower Chambers, Liverpool, merchant.

RAILWAY BRAKE COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 17,600*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. To acquire and work patents for an improved railway brake. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—Richard B. Martin, 63, Lombard-street; C. G. Hale, Austinfriars; F. T. Haggard, Austinfriars: W. Webb, Cullum-street; E. J. Ridsdale, Royal Mint: S. Slater, 60, Moorgate street; J. G. Slater, 60, Moorgate street.

MASSICOT IMPROVED VULCAN CEMENT (BALLOT TONTINE) COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. To purchase the goodwill and business of the Massicot Vulcan Cement Company, of 144, Gresham House, and Dover-street, N. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—C. R. Miles, 15, Coleman-street; W. R. Barrett, 18, New Bridge street; R. W. Jones, 3, St. George's-circus; G. Seymour, Queen Victoria-street; Alfred Horton, 8, Old Jewry; J. R. Hay, Elizabeth Cottage, Victoria Park; Joseph Hughes, Handsworth, Birmingham.

BELLTHAL BRUNNEN COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 6000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. To acquire mineral springs near the village of Cobern, Prussia.

LICKAR AND BOWSDEN COLLIERIES (Limited).—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. To acquire all the estate and interest of William Sanderson, in coal, clay, ironstone, and other minerals, under the Lickard and Bowsden estates, near Beal, Northumberland; and if necessary to acquire the Bowsden Lime Kilns and Quarries. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—William Sanderson, 53, Church-street, Monkwearmouth, Durham, colliery owner; Aaron Robinson, Highfield-road, Chesterfield, colliery owner; R. Carr, 17, St. Lawrence-road, W., engineer and surveyor; John Sanderson, 10, Randolph-street, Sunderland; F. O. Thompson, 17, Mary-street, Sunderland, accountant; Alfred J. Dobson, 27, Lambert-road, Brixton, civil engineer; E. H. Drury, 1, Clement's Inn, clerk. The directors are Messrs. Luke Bi-hop, John Wallace Taylor, John Sanderson, Aaron Robinson, and William Sanderson. The qualification is the holding of shares to the value of 1000*l.*

WILLIAM SPURRIER (Limited).—Capital 40,000*l.*, in 20*l.* shares. To acquire the business of Mr. William Spurrier, of Colmore row, Birmingham, silversmith, &c. The first seven subscribers (who take fifty shares each) are—G. Wilkinson, Abbotsford, Birmingham; James Neale Lanys, 68, Graham-street, Birmingham; John Zair, jun., Moseley, near Birmingham; Thomas Walker, Brook-street Works, Birmingham; Thomas Webb Jones, Horse Fair, Birmingham; W. T. Smedley, 20, Colmore-row, Birmingham; William Spurrier, New Hall-street, Birmingham.

JOHN HANDS (Limited).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 20*l.* shares. To acquire the business of Messrs. Hands and Dawes, of Birmingham, a firm which recently went into liquidation. The subscribers (who take one share each) are—W. H. Glennie, Edgbaston, near Birmingham; John Read, Bristol road, Birmingham; A. Duckworth, Birchfield, Birmingham; W. Crees, St. Vincent-street, Birmingham; W. H. Priestley, 25, Colmore Buildings, Birmingham; John Bailey, 27, Summer Hill-terrace, Birmingham; Thomas Attlee, Belgrave road, Birmingham.

HALIFAX.—Jan. 18: The following quotations are from Mr. J. H. Thackrah's list:—Halifax and Huddersfield Union Bank, 29½; Halifax Joint-Stock Bank, 31; Halifax Commercial Bank, 25; London and Yorkshire Bank, 24s. 3d.; John Crossley's, 10, ex div.; Whitworth and Co., 7½; Bradford Brick and Tile, A, 14; ditto B, 5; Ripponden Commercial, 10½; Yorkshire Boiler Insurance Co., 23s. 6d., Norton Brothers, 7½; Heckmondwike Manufacturing Company, 4; Goole Steam Shipping Company, 11.

BRADFORD SKATING RINK COMPANY (Limited).—Capital 13,000*l.*, in 10*l* shares. To establish a rink at Bradford.